



Wastewater News

Internet Address: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>



Clean Water . . . a better environment
Office of Wastewater Management

Working towards Clean Water

Upcoming Training, Meetings and Conferences

SRF Funding Framework Workshops Scheduled Around the Country

Following on the success of the recent Region II/III SRF Funding Framework Workshop that attracted over 100 participants for two days of discussion on how to make better use of the SRF for nonpoint source, estuary, and wetlands projects, the other Regions have set time frames for conducting their own workshops.

These workshops are designed to improve usage of the vast resources of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) to better address each state's water quality problems. The SRF has over \$24 billion in assets available for loans and can fund a wide variety of water quality projects, including agricultural BMPs, urban storm water runoff, wetlands and riparian zone restoration and protection, estuary projects, groundwater protection, and many others (see CW-SRF How to Fund NPS and Estuary Enhancement Projects, EPA 909-K-97-001, July 1997).

These interactive workshops will be structured to bring water quality representatives from nonpoint source, wetlands, estuary, watersheds, groundwater, and SRF programs together to share ideas, learn about each other's programs.

Region: I
Date: June, 1998
Contact: Ralph Caruso
Phone: (617) 565-3617

Region: IV
Date: August 1998
Contact: Sheryl Parsons
Phone: (404) 562-9337

Region: V
Date: Various locations/times
Contact: Gene Wojcik
Phone: (312) 886-0174

Region: VI
Date: Late June 1998
Contact: Velma Smith
Phone: (214) 665-7153

Region: VII
Date: September 1998
Contact: Donna Moore
Phone: (913) 551-7741

Region: VIII
Date: September 1998*
Contact: Brian Friel
Phone: (303) 312-6277

Region: IX
Date: September 1998*
Contact: Juanita Licata
Phone: (415) 744-1948



Region: X
Date: Planning
Contact: Dan Steinborn
Phone: (206) 553-2728

* may be combined

Regions not mentioned have completed the workshop. For more information, call the contact listed above or Nikos Singelis at (202) 260-5695 or check out our web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/OWM/finan.htm>.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Training Courses

The SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) Foundation has developed a two day Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) training course as part of its ongoing activities under a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Water (Permits Division). SETAC is currently developing a schedule of WET courses. The first scheduled courses have been scheduled through the SETAC Regional Chapters and they are listed below. The WET course will cover water quality topics such as Criteria and Standards, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting and enforcement, WET testing and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), as they apply to the WET program. If you would like to request a two day training course for your State, Tribe or group or need more information about the courses or the schedule, please contact Barbara Albrecht at the SETAC Foundation at (850-469-1500), by fax

2 The Office of Wastewater Management

(850-469-9778) or by e-mail (barbara@setac.org). Alternatively, you may contact Laura Phillips (EPA) at (202-260-9522).

SETAC Regional Chapters

Pacific NW

Dates: 5/6-7/98

Location: Bellingham, WA

Contact: Tim Hall
360-293-4748

Mid South

Dates: 5/14-15/98

Location: Oxford, MS

Contact: Daniel Schlenk
601-232-5150

Ohio Valley

Dates: Mid June

Location: Cincinnati, OH

Contact: Jay Gooch
513-634-1053

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

The Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) is working with other EPA offices, NPDES States, and a Federal Advisory Subcommittee to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Technical and outreach materials are being developed, and a Regional and State National SSO Coordinator's meeting is scheduled for May 1998. For more information, contact Sharie Centilla on (202) 260-6052.

Water Quality Standards Academy Outreach/Partnership

The Permits Division is continuing to partner with the Standards and Applied Science Division of the Office of Science and Technology (OST) on outreach for the water quality program. Permits Division staff are revising and presenting portions of the Water Quality Standards Academy

Curriculum that address implementation of water quality standards. The Permits Division is co-sponsoring with OST a multi-regional meeting on water quality criteria, standards, and implementation. The meeting will be held on August 24-28, 1998 in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, contact Greg Currey (202) 260-1718.

NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course

Permits Division personnel conducted the NPDES Permit Writers' Training Course in Honolulu, Hawaii on January 12-16. This was the first of a series of five courses that will be co-sponsored by the Department of the Navy in 1998. Other course locations planned for the upcoming months are:

Portsmouth, NH - May 11-15, 1998

Austin, TX - July 27-31, 1998

Seattle, WA - September 21-25, 1998

The training course lasts 5 days and there is no fee for attending. If you think you might be interested in attending the NPDES Training Course and would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive the course announcements, please call Betty Peterson at (703) 917-8240. If you have any questions regarding the course, contact Daniel Weese at (202)260-6809 or by email at weese.daniel@epamail.epa.gov.

CLEAN WATER NEEDS SURVEY (CWNS) DATABASE MODERNIZATION

An Alpha Test of the production system for the CWNS database will occur at the Systems Development Center (SDC) in Arlington, VA on June 15 --18. Although the Alpha Test is still a work in progress, it will provide EPA with an opportunity to see

how the system will function to support the year 2000 CWNS. It will also afford participants an opportunity for Ahands on@ experience with the production database system. Following the alpha testing, installation will occur in late fall. For more information, contact Jim Shuster on (202) 260-5829.

AMSA Risk Management Plan Implementation Workshop for POTWs

June 25-26, 1998 -Milwaukee, WI

On June 25-26, AMSA will host a workshop to assist publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) with the development of a risk management plan (RMP) as required by the new risk management rule promulgated under Section 112(r)(7) of the Clean Air Act. The two-day RMP Workshop will help POTWs that handle, produce, or store either chlorine, sulfur dioxide, anhydrous ammonia, methane, or propane above EPA's threshold quantities with implementing a risk management program and filing a RMP with EPA by the June 21, 1999 deadline. Over the past year, AMSA and EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office (CEPPO) have been working cooperatively to develop a model RMP to help POTWs understand the requirements as they relate to the wastewater industry. This model RMP will serve as the primer for the workshop which will highlight speakers from EPA and its contractor, OSHA, and AMSA member agencies with direct experience in developing RMPs. Speakers will provide workshop participants with implementation guidance, and assist POTWs with self RMP analysis/audit to determine their state of readiness and any gaps in their existing documentation, safety programs, or management system. Facility managers, safety managers, regulatory

3 The Office of Wastewater Management

compliance specialists, consultants and others responsible for chemical handling and emergency response are encouraged to attend this workshop. The workshop will also cover applicable compliance guidance for POTWs who are subject under state law to implement OSHA's Chemical Process Safety Management Standard and Program 3 prevention program, which had a 1995 compliance date. The RMP Workshop will be held June 25-26 at the Milwaukee Hilton (1-800/HILTONs) in Milwaukee, WI. For more information on the workshop, please contact Sam Hadeed at 202/833-4655 or shadeed@amsa-cleanwater.org. The agenda and registration information on this workshop can be found on AMSA's web site at www.amsa-cleanwater.org/mtgs/rmp/mtginfo.htm.

Fees:

\$325 AMSA Member (Public Agency)
\$325 Non-Member (Public Agency)
\$425 AMSA Affiliate Member (Private)
\$525 Non-Member (Private)

Water Environment Federation - "The Pretreatment Training Course"

The National Pretreatment Program Team, in coordination with Water Environment Federation will be offering "The Pretreatment Training Course" in Chicago, IL on June 23 & 24, and in Raleigh, NC on July 20 & 21. The objective of this training course is to provide the basic regulatory framework and technical considerations that support the development and implementation of pretreatment programs under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and the Clean Water Act (CWA). The course is designed and recommended for environmental professionals

responsible for implementing the Pretreatment Program at the local level, industrial dischargers, consultants, and especially individuals that are new to the program. For more information, contact Pat Bradley on (202) 260-6963.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR ONSITE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Headquarters staff continue to work with staff of EPA Region IX and Pima County Community College in preparation of the Onsite Training and Technical Assistance National Meeting being held on June 8 - 11, 1998, in Tucson, Arizona. Under Section 104(g) of the Clean Water Act, this program, through a network of operator training staff in the States, provides onsite operator training and technical assistance to small wastewater treatment plant operators (under 5 MGD) with compliance problems. For more information, contact Gary Hudiburn on (202) 260-4926.

5th EPA National Wastewater Treatment Technology Transfer Workshop in Kansas City

EPA Region VII will conduct the 5th National Wastewater Treatment Technology Transfer Workshop in Kansas City sponsored by the Municipal Technology Branch (MTB)/OWM, May 18 through 20. MTB participation will include presentations of: a paper on the Proposed Stormwater Phase II Regulations, by John Kosco; Part 503



Rule Implementation and Biosolids Program Re-Investment, by Bob Bastian; and Use of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems, by Joyce Hudson. The session on Assessment of Innovative Technologies for Wastewater Treatment and Elimination of Sanitary Sewer Overflows will be moderated by Bob Lee. For more information, contact Bob Lee on (202) 260-7356.

National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (NETCSC) - Reducing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste

NETCSC's will be offering a course on "Reducing Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste" April 30-May 1, May 5-6, and May 7-8 in Albuquerque; and in cooperation with Steve Clark of Headquarters Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water, A Drinking Water Modules on Disinfection and A Drinking Water and Wastewater System Development May 10 at the National Sanitation Foundation conference in Crystal City-Arlington, VA. NETCSC's popular A Basics of Environmental Systems Management (BESM) will be offered May 13 in Pittsburgh, May 20 in Harrisburg, and May 21 in Lehigh Valley, PA, all three in partnership with the Pennsylvania Municipal Training Partnership. For more information, contact Betty B. Ford on (202) 260-8510.

REGULATIONS AT WORK

Copper Brake Pad Work Group

EPA Water offices (Oceans and Coastal Protection Division and the Permits Division of the Office of Wastewater Management) are reprogramming funds to EPA Region IX to support the Copper Brake Pad

4 The Office of Wastewater Management

Work Group. The Copper Brake Pad Work Group is comprised of partnerships between federal, State and local governments with industry and environmental representatives. This partnership was initiated in the fall of 1996 as a result of copper contamination in the South Bay, San Francisco area which was caused by stormwater runoff polluted with copper from vehicle brake pad debris. The Work Group is evaluating substitute options for reducing the environmental threat of copper from brake pads on a voluntary basis. The efforts of this Work Group offer two levels for combating environmental pollution by first, finding alternatives to addressing current copper brake pad debris; and second, will result in the overall reduction of polluted storm water runoff. These efforts serve to protect local watersheds and improve water quality nationally, making the waters safe for public fishing, swimming and enjoyment. (Jim Pendergast, 260-9545 and Betsy Salter, 260-6466)

Proposed Tulsequah Chief Mine

On April 16th, EPA staff along with representatives from the Department of Interior and the State of Alaska met with the U.S. State Department to discuss a U.S. position regarding British Columbia's certification of the Tulsequah Chief mine. That meeting was followed by a meeting with Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Deputy Minister for the Environment, Land and Parks, British Columbia Province to further discuss the certification of the mine. EPA and other U.S. agencies have expressed significant concern on several issues surrounding the proposed design of the mine, including the siting of the tailings impoundment within the Shazah Creek flood plain and the construction of an access road. In addition, there concerns regarding the

potential cumulative impacts resulting from the mine on the migration of salmon within the Taku River Watershed. For more information contact Dan Weese on (202) 260-6809.

104(g)(1) Customer Survey

In FY 1982, EPA implemented an onsite technical assistance program designed to assist small communities. This program was authorized under Section 104(g)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The purpose of the program is to provide onsite training and technical assistance to communities with small wastewater treatment plants that are experiencing compliance problems. In order to frame and validate this initiative, EPA/OWM is conducting a survey to determine the onsite assistance programs' effectiveness. On April 14, 1998, the 104(g)(1) Customer Survey were sent out to customer, stakeholder, Region and State facilities that have received technical assistance and should be completed over the next several weeks. Findings from the survey will be analyzed and summarized in a national report which will be made available to customer, stakeholder, Region and State communities. For more information, contact Patrick Ogbebor on (202) 260-6322.

Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Programs Evaluation (Self-Audit)

The First of two notices of the MWPP Information Collection Renewal (ICR) was sent to the Federal Register's office on Monday, April 6, 1998 for publication. This is a request for clearance to collect information via self-audit form on the operation, physical capabilities and financial status of Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Programs. For more information, contact Patrick Ogbebor on (202)260-6322.

Storm Water Phase II

The 90 day commenting period on the Proposed Storm Water Phase II



ended April 9. OWM is currently in the process of categorizing comments received. Soon after that, OWM will begin to respond to those comments and summarize them accordingly. For more information, contact Patrick Ogbebor on (202)260-6322.

Streamlining the State Sludge Management Program Regulations

On February 27, 1998, EPA sent the final rule to Streamline the State Sewage Sludge Management Regulations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for their 90 day review. This rule will amend 40 CFR Parts 123 and 501 to ease the authorization process for States that are seeking approval of their sewage sludge (biosolids) programs. EPA expects to publish the final rule in June, 1998. For more information, contact Wendy Bell on (202) 260-9534.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) - Certified Projects

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) certified two projects at their quarterly public meeting held on March 31, 1998 in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. The projects certified were a \$82.9 million wastewater collection system for Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico and a \$40.25 million water treatment plant

5 The Office of Wastewater Management

in Del Rio, Texas. Both projects will be seeking EPA grant support through the Border Environment Infrastructure Fund. This brings the total number of projects certified by the BECC to twenty-one. For more information, contact Kurt Pope on (202) 260-5806.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) - Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP)

In consultation with OGC, the Mexico Border Team developed guidance for the Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) concerning National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues in the context of using Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP) money to fund project final design work. This issue emerged regarding a series of New Mexico Colonias projects that are seeking PDAP funds for final design work, but will fund construction from the Colonias Wastewater Construction Grants Program. The guidance clarifies that EPA must discharge its NEPA responsibilities before EPA funds can be spent on final design work. However, it was determined that EPA may run its environmental review process concurrently with environmental assessments and NEPA analyses done by States and others. For more information, contact Kurt Pope on (202) 260-5806.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Fact Sheets

In an effort to encourage expanded use of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), we have developed fact sheets that give one-page overviews of the program and how it fits into various EPA water quality projects. The following fact sheets are available for you to use as a resource or to distribute to potentially interested parties:

- ◆ The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program (EPA 832-F-96-003)
- ◆ Protecting Wetlands with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (EPA 832-F-97-017)
- ◆ Cleaning Up Polluted Runoff with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (EPA 832-F-98-001)
- ◆ The Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water Action Plan (available May, 1998)

Please contact Kristin Kenausis at (202) 260-2036 (e-mail: kenausis.kristin@epamail.epa.gov) if you are interested in receiving copies.

Clean Water SRF Regional Reviews

The SRF Branch is preparing to conduct a comprehensive review of all 10 regional Clean Water SRF programs. Our last round of reviews was conducted in FY96. This year's on-site reviews will be based on a preliminary review of "sampled" SRF documents as well as a comprehensive set of questions and minimum program requirements. These reviews will cover everything from core program requirements to fund management techniques to environmental progress. These reviews will also survey a few basic elements of the newly established Drinking Water SRF program. We hope to have the on-site portion of these reviews completed by June 1, with written reports completed by July 1. For more information, contact Nikos Singelis on (202) 260-5695.

SRF Presentation at Team Wetlands Conference

Staff from the Clean Water SRF made two presentations at the National Team Wetlands Conference (April 15-17, in Washington, D.C.). As part of our overarching effort to open the Clean Water SRF programs to funding priority wetlands, nonpoint source, and



estuary projects, this presentation focused on the basics of the SRF program for state and local wetlands officials. Kelly Davis, Kristin Kenausis, and Nikos Singelis were the presenters. The SRF program will be sponsoring more in-depth workshops around the country this summer. For more information on these workshops, check our web site at www.epa.gov/OWM/finan.htm. For more information, contact Kristin Kenausis on (202) 260-2036 or Nikos Singelis on (202) 260-5695.

Water Conservation Guidelines

A notice of availability of draft Water Conservation Plan Guidelines for public comment was published in the Federal Register on April 21, 1998. The deadline for comments is May 21, 1998. Section 1455 of the Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to publish guidelines for water conservation plans by August 6, 1998. At their option, States can require applicants for DWSRF loans to submit a water conservation plan consistent with EPA's guidelines as a condition of receiving a loan. The draft Guidelines and information on their development can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/OWM/genwave.htm>. The final meeting of the Water

6 The Office of Wastewater Management

Conservation Plan Guidelines Subcommittee of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) will be held on May 4, 1998 in Room 3N of EPA's Washington Information Center, 401 M St. SW, Washington, DC 20460. The Subcommittee will prepare recommendations for presentation to the LGAC. For more information on the draft guidelines or the upcoming meeting contact John Flowers at U.S. EPA, 202-260-7288, fax 202-260-0116.

Section 104(b)(3) funding

Through Clean Water Act section 104(b)(3) funding provided by the Office of Wastewater Management, the University of North Texas (in coordination with the City of Denton, TX) as completed work on an "Integrated Monitoring and Oversight Strategy for Municipalities." The study was designed to assess the feasibility of integrating activities required by the industrial pretreatment program with those required by the anticipated Phase II storm water regulations. This will fit into the City of Denton's development of a "state-of-the-art" watershed protection program. The city's proposed protection program provides monitoring of water quality, precipitation, stream flow, storm water sampling, and a biosensory system for the Pecan Creek Watershed (a contributing tributary to Lake Lewisville which provides drinking water for City of Dallas). This will be accomplished by the interaction of five distinct components: 1). the Industrial Pretreatment/Storm Water Program, 2) a flood early-warning system, 3) Pecan Creek water quality assessment, 4). evaluation of real-time biosensors (fresh water clams that provide data on water quality and act as a trigger for water quality sampling devices), and 5) an environmental education interactive

display at the University of North Texas. For more information, contact Pat Bradley on (202)260-6963.

Waiver Requests

The Director, Office of Wastewater Management (OWM), has the responsibility for reviewing and approving requests for waivers to the 45% local match requirement for the special water and wastewater infrastructure projects included in the Agency's Appropriations Acts. The Director, OWM, approved a waiver for Jenner Township, Pennsylvania on March 26, 1998. Region III was granted the authority to award a \$2,600,000 grant to Jenner Township with no local match requirement. There are currently 5 waiver requests pending in Headquarters. For more information, contact Larry McGee on (202) 260-5825.

Construction Grants Program Information Collection Request (ICR)Renewal

The first of two notices for renewal of the ICR for the construction grants program has been signed and is being forwarded to the Federal Register for publication and a 60 day public comment period. This is a request for renewal of the clearance to collect information by EPA and the States on the completion and closeout of the program. For more information, contact Lucille Lim on (202)260-6322.

Tribal News

Financial Assistance for Wastewater Treatment Systems

On April 3, 1998, OWM made available to the Regions \$6.7 million in FY 1998 grant funds to assist Tribes with the planning, design and/or construction of twenty-three

(23) tribal wastewater treatment systems. These funds were made available through Section 518(c) of the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Construction Grant Program. Projects were funded in Regions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 for work including lagoon upgrades, new sewer lines, lift stations, replacement of failing septic systems, or new treatment facilities. Project funding ranged from \$25,500 for the Passamoquaddy Tribes in Maine (Region 1) to \$1.2 million for the Shiprock project on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico (Region 9). EPA Regions are currently working with the tribes to develop applications for grant awards by the end of the fiscal year. Since 1998, the Indian Set-Aside Program has made \$78 million available to tribes for 173 wastewater systems. For more information contact Sylvia Bell on (202) 260-7255.

**WHAT'S
COMING...**



Check out our Internet
site: <http://www.epa.gov/owm>.

We are constantly improving the OWM web site. In fact, we are redesigning it!!! Please understand that many of our pages have been updated or removed because new information or sites have replaced them. Therefore, if you ever come up with the message "site not found," simply go back to the OWM Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm> and look around. For more information, contact Keeley Walls on (202) 260-5679.